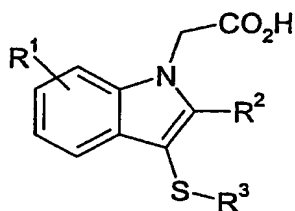


CLAIMS

1. A compound of formula (I) or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof:



(I)

in which

R^1 is hydrogen, halogen, CN, nitro, SO_2R^4 , OH, OR^4 , $S(O)_xR^4$, $SO_2NR^5R^6$, $CONR^5R^6$, NR^5R^6 , aryl (optionally substituted by chlorine or fluorine), C_2-C_6 alkenyl, C_2-C_6 alkynyl or C_{1-6} alkyl, the latter three groups being optionally substituted by one or more substituents independently selected from halogen, OR^8 and NR^5R^6 , $S(O)_xR^7$ where x is 0, 1 or 2;

R^2 is hydrogen, halogen, CN, SO_2R^4 or $CONR^5R^6$, CH_2OH , CH_2OR^4 or C_{1-7} alkyl, the latter group being optionally substituted by one or more substituents independently selected from halogen atoms, OR^8 and NR^5R^6 , $S(O)_xR^7$ where x is 0, 1 or 2;

R^3 is aryl or heteroaryl each of which is optionally substituted by one or more substituents independently selected from hydrogen, halogen, CN, nitro, OH, SO_2R^4 , OR^4 , SR^4 , SOR^4 , $SO_2NR^5R^6$, $CONR^5R^6$, NR^5R^6 , $NHCOR^4$, $NHSO_2R^4$, $NHCO_2R^4$, $NR^7SO_2R^4$, $NR^7CO_2R^4$, C_2-C_6 alkenyl, C_2-C_6 alkynyl, C_{1-6} alkyl, the latter three groups being optionally substituted by one or more substituents independently selected from halogen atoms, OR^8 and NR^5R^6 , $S(O)_xR^7$ where x = 0, 1 or 2;

R^4 represents aryl, heteroaryl, or C_{1-6} alkyl all of which may be optionally substituted by one or more substituents independently selected from halogen atoms, aryl, heteroaryl, OR^{10} , OH, $NR^{11}R^{12}$, $S(O)_xR^{13}$ (where x = 0, 1 or 2), $CONR^{14}R^{15}$, $NR^{14}COR^{15}$, $SO_2NR^{14}R^{15}$, $NR^{14}SO_2R^{15}$, CN, nitro;

R^5 and R^6 independently represent a hydrogen atom, a C_{1-6} alkyl group, or an aryl, or a heteroaryl, the latter three of which may be optionally substituted by one or more

substituents independently selected from halogen atoms, aryl, OR⁸ and NR¹⁴R¹⁵,
CONR¹⁴R¹⁵, NR¹⁴COR¹⁵, SO₂NR¹⁴R¹⁵, NR¹⁴SO₂R¹⁵; CN, nitro

or

R⁵ and R⁶ together with the nitrogen atom to which they are attached can form a 3-8
5 membered saturated heterocyclic ring optionally containing one or more atoms selected
from O, S(O)_x where x = 0, 1 or 2, NR¹⁶, and itself optionally substituted by C₁₋₃ alkyl;

R⁷ and R¹³ independently represent a C₁-C₆, alkyl, an aryl or a heteroaryl group, all of
which may be optionally substituted by halogen atoms;

10 R⁸ represents a hydrogen atom, C(O)R⁹, C₁-C₆ alkyl (optionally substituted by halogen
atoms or aryl) an aryl or a heteroaryl group (optionally substituted by halogen);

each of R⁹, R¹⁰, R¹¹, R¹², R¹⁴, R¹⁵, independently represents a hydrogen atom, C₁-C₆ alkyl,
15 an aryl or a heteroaryl group; and

R¹⁶ is hydrogen, C₁₋₄ alkyl, -COC₁₋₄ alkyl, COYC₁₋₄alkyl where Y is O or NR⁷.

each of R⁹, R¹⁰, R¹¹, R¹², R¹⁴, R¹⁵, independently represents a hydrogen atom, C₁-C₆ alkyl,
20 an aryl or a heteroaryl group (all of which may be optionally substituted by halogen
atoms); and

R¹⁶ is hydrogen, C₁₋₄ alkyl, -COC₁₋₄ alkyl, COYC₁₋₄alkyl where Y is O or NR⁷,

25 • provided that when R¹ is hydrogen and R² is methyl, then R³ is not 2-nitrophenyl.

2. A compound according to claim 1 in which R¹ is aryl, hydrogen, methyl, chloro,
fluoro, nitrile, nitro, bromo, iodo, SO₂Me, SO₂Et, NR⁴R⁵, SO₂N-alkyl₂.

30 3. A compound according to claim 1 or 2 in which R² is C₁₋₆alkyl.

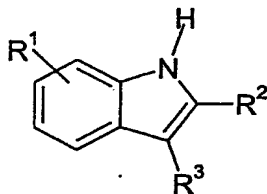
4. A compound according to claim 3 in which R³ is quinolyl, phenyl or thiazole.
substituted by one or more fluorine, chlorine, methyl, ethyl, isopropyl, methoxy, SO₂Me,
trifluoromethyl or aryl.groups.

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5. A compound according to claim 1 selected from:

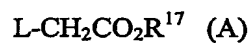
- 3-[(4-chlorophenyl)thio]-2,5-dimethyl-1*H*-indol-1-acetic acid;
3-[(2-chloro-4-fluorophenyl)thio]-2,5-dimethyl-1*H*-indol-1-acetic acid;
3-[(3-chloro-4-fluorophenyl)thio]-2,5-dimethyl-1*H*-indol-1-acetic acid;
3-[(2-methoxyphenyl)thio]-2,5-dimethyl-1*H*-indol-1-acetic acid;
5 3-[(3-fluorophenyl)thio]-2,5-dimethyl-1*H*-indol-1-acetic acid;
3-[(4-ethylphenyl)thio]-2,5-dimethyl-1*H*-indol-1-acetic acid;
3-[(2-chlorophenyl)thio]-2,5-dimethyl-1*H*-indol-1-acetic acid;
3-[(2,5-dichlorophenyl)thio]-2,5-dimethyl-1*H*-indol-1-acetic acid;
3-[(4-fluorophenyl)thio]-2,5-dimethyl-1*H*-indol-1-acetic acid;
10 3-[(4-chloro-2-methylphenyl)thio]-2,5-dimethyl-1*H*-indol-1-acetic acid;
3-[(4-chlorophenyl)thio]-4-cyano-2,5-dimethyl-1*H*-indole-1-acetic acid;
5-chloro-3-[(4-chlorophenyl)thio]-6-cyano-2-methyl-1*H*-indole-1-acetic acid;
3-[(4-chlorophenyl)thio]-4-(ethylsulfonyl)-7-methoxy-2-methyl-1*H*-indole-1-acetic acid;
3-[(4-chlorophenyl)thio]-4-[(diethylamino)sulfonyl]-7-methoxy-2-methyl-1*H*-indole-1-
15 acetic acid;
4-chloro-3-[(4-chlorophenyl)thio]-2-methyl-1*H*-indole-1-acetic acid;
5-chloro-3-[(4-chlorophenyl)thio]-2-methyl-1*H*-indole-1-acetic acid;
6-chloro-3-[(4-chlorophenyl)thio]-2-methyl-1*H*-indole-1-acetic acid;
7-chloro-3-[(4-chlorophenyl)thio]-2-methyl-1*H*-indole-1-acetic acid;
20 3-[(4-chlorophenyl)thio]-2-methyl-5-(methylsulfonyl)-1*H*-indole-1-acetic acid;
2-methyl-3-[(4-methylphenyl)thio]-6-(methylsulfonyl)-1*H*-indole-1-acetic acid;
4-bromo-3-[(4-chlorophenyl)thio]-2-methyl-1*H*-indole-1-acetic acid;
3-[(4-chlorophenyl)thio]-4-[4-[(1,1-dimethylethoxy)carbonyl]-1-piperazinyl]-2-methyl-
1*H*-indole-1-acetic acid;
25 3-[(4-chlorophenyl)thio]-2-methyl-4-(1-piperazinyl)-1*H*-indole-1-acetic acid;
5-bromo-3-[(4-chlorophenyl)thio]-2-methyl-1*H*-indole-1-acetic acid;
3-[(4-chlorophenyl)thio]-2-methyl-5-phenyl-1*H*-indole-1-acetic acid;
3-[(4-chlorophenyl)thio]-5-cyano-2-methyl-1*H*-indole-1-acetic acid;
3-[(4-cyanophenyl)thio]-2,5-dimethyl-1*H*-indol-1-acetic acid,
30 3-[(3-methoxyphenyl)thio]-2,5-dimethyl-1*H*-indole-1-acetic acid;
3-[(4-methoxyphenyl)thio]-2,5-dimethyl-1*H*-indole-1-acetic acid,
3-[(3-ethylphenyl)thio]-2,5-dimethyl-1*H*-indole-1-acetic acid
2,5-dimethyl-3-[(2-methylphenyl)thio]-1*H*-indole-1-acetic acid;
3-[(3-chlorophenyl)thio]-2,5-dimethyl-1*H*-indole-1-acetic acid,
35 3-[(2-Fluorophenyl)thio]-2,5-dimethyl-1*H*-indole-1-acetic acid,
3-[(2,6-Dichlorophenyl)thio]-2,5-dimethyl-1*H*-indole-1-acetic acid;

- 3-(1*H*-Imidazol-2-ylthio)-2,5-dimethyl-1*H*-indole-1-acetic acid,
2,5-Dimethyl-3-(1*H*-1,2,4-triazol-3-ylthio)-1*H*-indole-1-acetic acid;
2,5-Dimethyl-3-[(4-methyl-4*H*-1,2,4-triazol-3-yl)thio]-1*H*-indole-1-acetic acid;
2,5-Dimethyl-3-[(4-methyl-2-oxazolyl)thio]-1*H*-indole-1-acetic acid;
5 2,5-Dimethyl-3-[(1-methyl-1*H*-imidazol-2-yl)thio]-1*H*-indole-1-acetic acid;
2,5-Dimethyl-3-[[4-(methylsulfonyl)phenyl]thio]-1*H*-indole-1-acetic acid,
2,5-Dimethyl-3-(8-quinolinylthio)-1*H*-indole-1-acetic acid,
3-[(4-Chlorophenyl)thio]-5-fluoro-2,4-dimethyl-1*H*-indole-1-acetic acid;
3-[(4-Cyanophenyl)thio]-5-fluoro-2,4-dimethyl-1*H*-indole-1-acetic acid;
10 3-[(2-Chlorophenyl)thio]-5-fluoro-2,4-dimethyl-1*H*-indole-1-acetic acid;
5-Fluoro-3-[(2-methoxyphenyl)thio]-2,4-dimethyl-1*H*-indole-1-acetic acid;
5-Fluoro-3-[(2-ethylphenyl)thio]-2,4-dimethyl-1*H*-indole-1-acetic acid;
5-Fluoro-2,4-dimethyl-3-[[2-(1-methylethyl)phenyl]thio]-1*H*-indole-1-acetic acid;
5-fluoro-2,4-dimethyl-3-[[2-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]thio]-1*H*-indole-1-acetic acid;
15 2,5-dimethyl-4-(methylsulfonyl)-3-[(4-phenyl-2-thiazolyl)thio]-1*H*-indole-1-acetic acid;
3-[(3-chlorophenyl)thio]-2,5-dimethyl-4-(methylsulfonyl)-1*H*-indole-1-acetic acid;
3-[(2-chlorophenyl)thio]-2,5-dimethyl-4-(methylsulfonyl)-1*H*-indole-1-acetic acid;
3-[(4-chlorophenyl)thio]-5-(methoxycarbonyl)-2-methyl-1*H*-indole-1-acetic acid;
5-carboxy-3-[(4-chlorophenyl)thio]-2-methyl-1*H*-indole-1-acetic acid;
20 3-[(4-chlorophenyl)thio]-2-methyl-4-nitro-1*H*-indole-1-acetic acid;
4-amino-3-[(4-chlorophenyl)thio]-2-methyl-1*H*-indole-1-acetic acid;
3-[(4-chlorophenyl)thio]-4-(ethylamino)-2-methyl-1*H*-indole-1-acetic acid;
3-[(4-chlorophenyl)thio]-4-iodo-2-methyl-1*H*-indole-1-acetic acid;
3-[(4-chlorophenyl)thio]-2-methyl-4-phenyl-1*H*-indole-1-acetic acid;
25 and pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof.
6. A compound of formula (I) according to any one of claims 1 to 5 for use in therapy.
7. A method of treating a disease mediated by prostaglandin D₂, which comprises
30 administering to a patient a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of formula (I),
or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt as defined in claims 1 to 6.
8. A method of treating according to claim 7 wherein the disease is asthma or rhinitis.
9. A process for the preparation of a compound of formula (I) which comprises reaction
35 of a compound of formula (II):



(II)

- 5 in which R¹, R² and R³ are as defined in formula (I) or are protected derivatives thereof, with a compound of formula (A):



- 10 where R¹⁷ is an ester forming group and L is a leaving group in the presence of a base, and optionally thereafter in any order:

- removing any protecting group
- hydrolysing the ester group R¹⁷ to the corresponding acid
- forming a pharmaceutically acceptable salt.

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10. A compound of formula (II) as defined in claim 9.

11. A compound of formula (I) for use in the treatment of a disease mediated by prostaglandin D2.